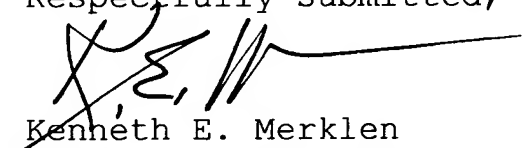


## REMARKS

The Official Office Action under the mailing date of December 22, 2005 has been received and studied. This application has been reviewed, in light of the Examiner's Remarks. The rejection of claims 1 - 6, 8 and 9 is noted. Please cancel claims 1 - 6, 8 and 9, without prejudice. Claims 22, 23 and 24 were previously canceled. The allowance claims 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 25 - 34 is acknowledged, with appreciation. Claims 14 - 21 stand withdrawn. The drawings on file have been accepted. All issues in this application have been resolved. This application is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be accepted and entered. No additional fee is required at this time. There being no issue remaining in the application, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed, a Notice of Allowance be issued and this application be passed to the Issue branch.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth E. Merklen

Regis. Number 20,805

Attorney for Applicant